

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INR-10 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
SS-15 L-03 MCE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 ACDA-12
/075 W

-----125621 270153Z /72

R 261209Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8618

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6581

FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NI
SUBJECT: SALE OF PHOTORECONNAISSANCE AND MAPPING SYSTEM TO FMG

REF: CHAVEAS/WYMAN TELCON

1. EMBASSY CAN NOT LOCATE ANY RECORD OF EMBASSY RECOM-
MENDATION RE SALE OF ITEK CORPORATION, OPTICAL SYSTEMS
DIVISION, PHOTORECONNAISSANCE AND MAPPING SYSTEM DIS-
CUSSED IN TELCON. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED OF-
FICIALLY BY FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (FMG) RE THIS
SALE. THROUGH CONTACTS WITH ITEK WE UNDERSTAND THAT
AIR FORCE HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED PROPOSAL FOR SEVEN
TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE PODS (FIVE OPERATIONAL PLUS
TWO SPARE), ONE FIXED BASE FOR FILM PROCESSING AND
SYSTEM MAINTENANCE, ONE PORTABLE FILM PROCESSING
LABORATORY, ONE PORTABLE MAINTENANCE BASE, TRAINING
FOR SIX PERSONNEL, AND FIELD SERVICE AND SPARES
TO SUPPORT TWO YEARS OF OPERATION.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THIS PROPOSAL IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR
THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE (NAF), BUT DO NOT KNOW WHETHER
IT HAS YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE FMG. IN STRICTLY
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MILITARY TERMS WE SEE RELATIVELY LITTLE USE FOR SUCH
EQUIPMENT BY NAF SINCE POSSIBILITY OF ARMED CONFLICT
INTHE REGION IS SLIGHT. THEORETICALLY,
IF FMG WERE TO DECIDE TO SUPPORT MORE ACTIVELY GUERILLA
WARFARE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IT COULD BE OF SOME USE,
BUT ASIDE FROM FMG'S RELUCTANCE TO DO MORE IN THIS
AREA, WE DOUBT NAF WOULD WISH TO ENDANGER EXPENSIVE

AND SOPHISTICATED GEAR OF THIS NATURE BY POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO A COMBAT ZONE NOT DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO NIGERIA'S MILITARY.

3. THE EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE WIDE AND USEFUL APPLICATIONS IN NIGERIA AS CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. THE FMG SORELY NEEDS THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FOR MAPPING AND SURVEYING ITS HUGE TERRITORY. IF ASKED, THE EMBASSY WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A SALE ON THIS BASIS.

4. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER DEPARTMENT DESIRES SUBMISSION FO DETAILED JUSTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 77 STATE 207984.
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: MASS, NI
To: STATE
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